

St. Vincent de Paul of Brown County 2024—A Year in Review

2901 Long Lake Road, Nashville, IN 47448 (Mailing Address: POB 577, Nashville, IN 47448)



On March 25, 2024, this 26' Freightliner Refrigerated Truck began work in Brown County. 19 different drivers are authorized to drive the vehicle representing SVDP, The Pentecostals, Mother's Cupboard, TRIAD, Big Woods/Quaff On Brewing Company, Wright Auto Repair and YMCA. We call the truck MJ 2.0. In a given month, she travels about 1000 miles and transports between 6-7 ton of food to the County. The truck was purchased with donations from the Brown County Community Foundation, St. Vincent de Paul in North Vernon, individuals Mary Perez, Betsy Lease, Fred Dornheim, Bob & Debby Zerr & the St. Joseph Community Foundation.

In April, we celebrated 34 years of service to Brown County. Originally, bags of food were distributed out of a vehicle on the parking lot of the original St. Agnes location at 602 N. State Road 135 (now the home of the Presbyterian Fellowship). Today, we operate a food pantry with an industrial cooler/freezer and distribute about 10 ton of food each month.



On any day of the year, Dick Peck coordinates a team that transports donations of furniture, appliances, household goods & sometimes an entire household. It can be overwhelming at times but this effort makes such a difference for our neighbors. Pictured here are Tom Quill and Dick unloading some items at the home goods building. Dick estimates that they make about a hundred of these trips during a given calendar year and welcome others to join them with pickups and deliveries.



Mary Perez provides fire starters.



Terry Fox, with the help of Dick Peck, coordinate the firewood ministry and work with those who donate wood.

Every Lent, Al & Carol Drake coordinate a food drive at Touch of Silver, Gold and Old for St. Vincent de Paul and other food pantries. Pictured here is Al with a trailer full of food donations ready to transport.

See over for more



Providing for our children is a year around focus but especially important during our Back to School Program where we served 763 children with \$60 vouchers to purchase school supplies, shoes, socks, back packs etc. .



SVDP helped launch the first Community Baby Shower for Brown County on September 21. 35 different organizations offered resources to 31 households representing 70 children. The event included a safe sleep class and child passenger car seat safety check.



Grants were received from the Brown County Community Foundation, Prevent Child Abuse-Indiana, and the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute along many in-kind donations such as blankets, books, toys, etc.



December, 2024 was one of our busiest months as a new program for children, called "Blessing Basket" brought gifts valued at \$30 to 412 children. Each gift was purchased by a donor or sponsored and families picked up the gifts on December 14 at Presbyterian Fellowship.



A special program for Grandparents was hosted on December 18 with 53 grandparents honored with gifts, games, food and fellowship at the CYO cafeteria. This year's innovations were inspired by Cheryl Orr Dixon and Leslie Claus and supported by dozens of volunteers.



The 2023 addition of the home goods building allows us to meet even more of each family's needs. This year alone 38 appliances, 55 beds, more than 350 tables, chairs, couches, dressers and other needed furniture items were donated and received by our families. In addition, 584 sheet sets and 446 towel sets, hundreds of blankets and thousands of houseware and clothing items went to our families and not to a landfill. The volunteers who work here take time to better understand needs and build friendships with those we serve.

Each month, area churches provide donations of food and cash. Pictured here is Pastor Jon, Church of the Lakes, whose faith community contributes food each month along with a regular donation to the Back to School Program. Other churches who contribute regularly are St. David's, Nashville Christian Church, Beck's Grove Christian Church and Nashville United Methodist Church.

Want to help or learn more: See our website: <https://stvincentdepaulbrowncounty.com/>

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